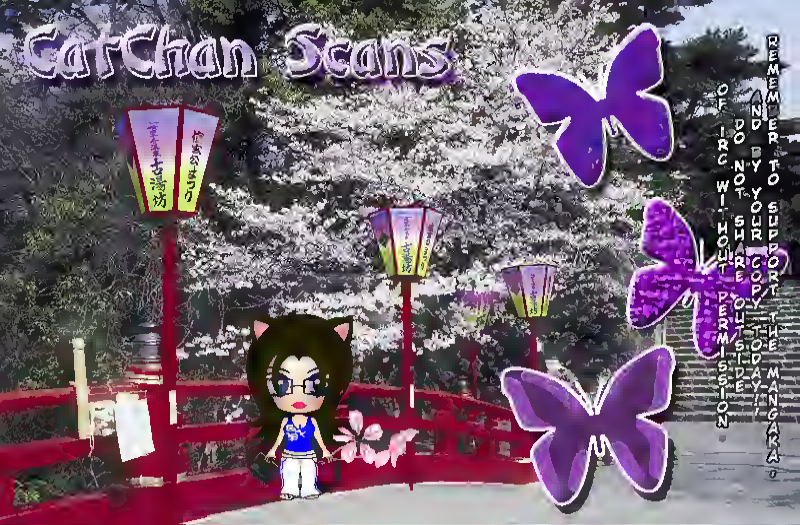
CatChan Scans
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA
AND BUY YOUR COPY OF THE GOD DAMN
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION

5
TENSHI JA NAI!!
I'm No Angel!
Story & Art by
Takako Shigematsu

IT FEELS LIKE THIS VOLUME PUSHES THIS SERIES INTO THE "16 OR OLDER" CATEGORY
Th-Thump
It's packed with sexual innuendos.
Th-Thump
Eeek!
A-A-A-A-ARE YOU FOR REAL!?
No way!
I'M JUST KIDDING DUH.

TENSHI JA NAI!!

TENSHI JA NAI!!

I'm No Angel!

Volume 5

Story and Art by
Takako Shigematsu

go!comi

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A Go! Comi manga

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TENSHI JA NAI!

CONTENTS

SCENE 21 9
SCENE 22 47
SCENE 23 83
SCENE 24 123
SCENE 25 165
Translator's Notes 203

VOL. 5

Concerning Honorifics

At Go! Comi, we do our best to ensure that our translations read seamlessly in English while respecting the original Japanese language and culture. To this end, the original honorifics (the suffixes found at the end of characters' names) remain intact in Japan, where politeness and formality are more integrated into every aspect of the language, honorifics give a better understanding of character relationships. They can be used to indicate both respect and affection. Whether a person addresses someone by first name or last name also indicates how close their relationship is.

Here are some of the honorifics you might encounter in reading this book:

-san: This is the most common and neutral of honorifics. The polite way to address someone you're not on close terms with is to use "-san." It's kind of like Mr. or Ms., except you can use "-san" with first names as easily as family names.

-chan: Used for friendly familiarity, mostly applied towards young girls. "-chan" also carries a connotation of cuteness with it, so it is frequently used with nicknames towards both boys and girls (such as "Na-chan" for "Natsu").

-kun: Like "-chan," it's an informal suffix for friends and classmates, only "-kun" is usually associated with boys. It can also be used in a professional environment by someone addressing a subordinate.

-sama: indicates a great deal of respect or admiration.

Sempai: In school, "sempai" is used to refer to an upperclassman or club leader. It can also be used in the workplace by a new employee to address a mentor or staff member with seniority.

Sensei: Teachers, doctors, writers or any master of a trade are referred to as "sensei." When addressing a manga creator, the polite thing to do is attach "-sensei" to the manga-ka's name (as in Shigematsu-sensei).

Onii: This is the more casual term for an older brother. Usually you'll see it with an honorific attached, such as "onii-chan."

Onee: The casual term for older sister, it's used like "onii" with honorifics.

[blank]: Not using an honorific when addressing someone indicates that the speaker has permission to speak intimately with the other person. This relationship is usually reserved for close friends and family.

Wall of Memories

A New School

When her mom and step dad move to France, Hikaru transfers to her mother's alma mater, the prestigous Seika Academy, an all girls finishing school

Childhood memories

When she was seven years old, Hikaru modeled in a series of ads. Her jealous classmates picked on her relentlessly so now Hikaru's greatest wish is to be left alone

BLACKMAIL!!!

To keep Hikaru quiet and in order to enlist her help, Izumi and Yasukuni blackmail Hikaru with naked photos.

She's a GUY!?

Hikaru discovers that her roommate, Izumi, is actually a guy!

Hikaru turns out to be a blessing in disguise for Izumi. Having a female conspirator by his side helps him maintain his cover in the trickiest circumstances

Izumi's Confidant

After being betrayed and left for broke Izumi's father attempted to commit suicide but ended up in a coma. Now Izumi has to work as a model to pay off his dad's medical bills

When Fans Attack!

It's not easy being a celebrity on campus. Half the students worship Izumi the other half resent her. And Hikaru's stuck in the middle!

A Shocking Past

Hikaru Takabayashi

The reluctant star of the series. Hikaru wants nothing more than to be left alone but, ever since she transferred to the prestigous Seika Academy she's been stuck in the spotlight. Being roommates with a cross-dressing pop idol is bad enough, but now Izumi is blackmailing her into helping with his modeling job. Will Hikaru ever catch a break?

Izumi Kido

Izumi is one of the hottest new female pop idols in Japan. The only problem is...she's a guy! Only two people know his secret—Yasukuni, his bodyguard and childhood friend, and Akizuki, his manager. When Hikaru finds out, Izumi blackmails her into helping him maintain his secret. Izumi needs the modeling money to pay off his father's medical bills.

Yasukuni Inukai

Yasukuni is fiercely loyal to Izumi. A bastard child disowned by his father, Izumi is the only family he has. Now that Hikaru has won his trust, he's taken to looking out for her, as well. Much of his past remains a mystery, such as why he's missing his right eye. He does double duty as the school janitor so he can always be close to Izumi.

SUMIKKO

Hikaru's best friend in the world. Yasukuni takes care of her while Hikaru's at school.

Momochi

Star reporter for the school paper, Momochi is always on the lookout for gossip!

Akizuki

President of the Akizuki Talent Agency and Izumi's manager

Cast of Characters

TENSHI JA NAI!!
天使じゃない!!
SCENE 21

...I'D HAVE BEEN AMAZED.
IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT IF I'D PULLED SOMETHING LIKE THIS OFF...
42 MICHIKO NONAKA
43 HIKARU TAKABAYASHI
44 MAHO HAYASHI
NOT TOO HIGH NOT TOO LOW.
CHATTER
CLENCH

TAKA-BAYASHI!
GASP
SENSEI...?

1 Yoshino Kimura (score: 994)
2 Chisato Hashiguchi (score: 977)
3 Izumi Kido (score: 930)
4 Yumi Matsumoto
SHE'S A HUGE STAR! WHEN DOES SHE FIND THE TIME TO STUDY?
CHATTER
CHATTER
OMIGOD, YOU'RE RIGHT!
CHECK IT OUT! IZUMI-SAMA'S DONE IT AGAIN!
♡
CHATTER
PHEW
THANK GOOD-NESS...
CHATTER
CHATTER

SHE WAS THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, AND THE MOST POPULAR GIRL IN SCHOOL..
...UNTIL SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR A HEART CONDITION
SHE AND SENSEI HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD
I WON'T GIVE UP ON HIM.
POOR SAKON-SEMPAI...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
SORRY IT WAS SUCH A THOUGHTFUL GIFT, TOO.
SAKON-SEMPAI?
IT'S JUST THAT I GOT A LETTER FROM SAKON'S MOTHER...
THE SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS AND IT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE

Greetings

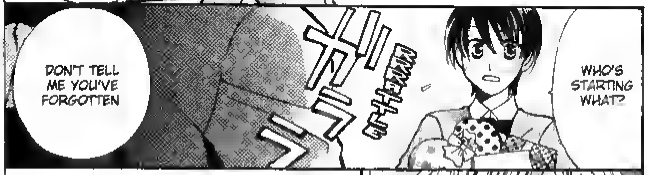
Hello, both to those I'm meeting for the first time and to those I'm seeing again!

It happened without me realizing it, but Tenshi Ja Nai!! has reached the 5th volume! I owe it all to each and every one of my faithful readers.

From here on in, I'm going to work even harder as a sign of my gratitude!

So hurry up and finish reading volume 5!

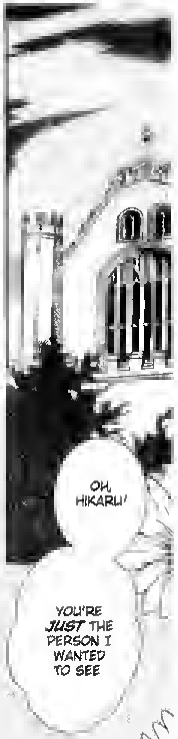
HURRY UP, HIKARU! THEY'RE STARTING WITHOUT US
WAVE WAVE
IT'S PROBABLY POISON!
HA HA VERY FUNNY
I'M SERIOUS LOOK
HEY! THIS ONE'S ADDRESSED TO YOU, HIKARU.


DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
SWEEP SWEEP
WHO'S STARTING WHAT?

...but can't he! You're requesting me!?
Oh, you...
TODAY IS YOUR...
...BIG DEBUT AS A TV STAR.
Remember?

COME WITH ME TO THE STUDENT LOUNGE.

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
IZUMI-SAN, UH, I WAS KIND OF HOPING TO DROP ALL OF THIS BAGGAGE OFF AT THE DORM FIRST.
HOW ABOUT I MEET YOU THERE?
NAH.
FOR IZUMI-SAMA


OH, HIKARU!
YOU'RE JUST THE PERSON I WANTED TO SEE

OKAY...

I AM COMPLETELY AGAINST...
...STANDING OUT OR BEING NOTICED!!

TV STAR...
OH!
OH, THAT!?
STARE
WHISPR
I heard Takahashi-san makes a guest appearance in it.
Wow, that's awesome!
STARE
WHISPR
GASP

SOB
I KNOW... BUT...
THE WAY THEY ALL STARE AT ME NOW, IT'S DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
I JUST CAN'T TRUST THAT IT'S REAL... NOT YET...
.....

YOU SURE ARE SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING YOU CLAIM NOT TO CARE ABOUT.
SHOVE
SHOVE
Ugh...
IT'S JUST A MINOR ROLE ON A TV SHOW.

LOOK, RUMOR OF YOUR TV APPEARANCE HAS ALREADY GOTTEN AROUND SCHOOL.
THE ATTENTION IS GOING TO BE POSITIVE, NOT NEGATIVE. WHY NOT ENJOY IT?
PLOP

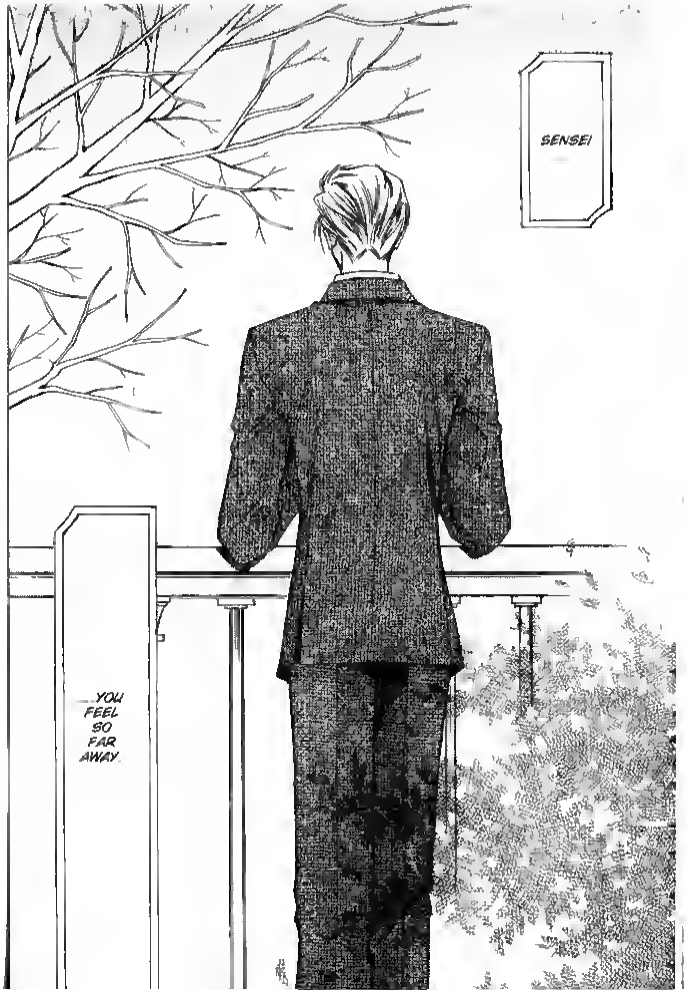
That morning wouldn't feel complete!
STOP PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP!
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB

SWSH
SWSH
HUH? TAKABA-YASHI-SAN?
AWW, I WAS HOPING TO ASK HER ABOUT THE TV PREMIERE...
DING DONG DING
TAKABA-YASHI-SAAAAN!
Takahayashi-san?
I KNOW WHAT IZUMI-SAN SAID, BUT...
GASP
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
UNTIL THIS ALL BLOWS OVER, I'LL JUST...
SHST...
SNEAK
SNEAK
...I'M JUST NOT COMFORTABLE WITH ALL OF THIS

TOO CLOSE
IZUMI-SA--
NOW LET'S GET SOME SLEEP.
Stubborn
TSK
AND NO CLICKING YOUR TONGUE AT ME!!
Who you calling stubborn!?
HEY! YOUR BED'S OVER THERE, IZUMI-SAN!!
YOU DON'T KNOW, MAYBE SOME OF THEM...
...HAVE STARTED TO REGRET NOT GIVING YOU A CHANCE
!!

IS THAT ANOTHER LETTER? I BET IT'S FROM SAKON-SAN!
I SHOULDN'T INTERRUPT HIM.
IF I START TALKING, I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP.

!!
SENSEI...?

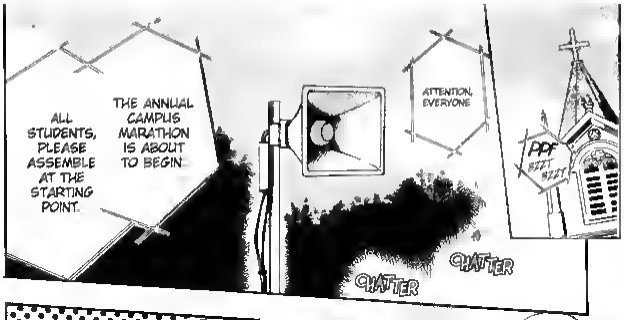

SENSEI
YOU FEEL SO FAR AWAY

I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AREN'T I, SENSEI?
IF I INTERFERE, IT MIGHT MAKE HIM HATE ME
I'M AFRAID TO ASK...

I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS FOR YOU
WHY DO YOU SEEM SO WORRIED LATELY?
WHO IS ON YOUR MIND NOW, SENSEI?

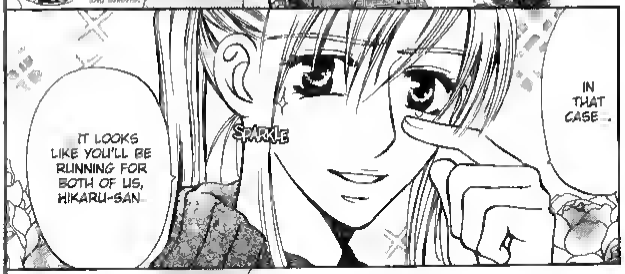
GIMME A BREAK! I WAS ONSCREEN FOR ONLY A FEW MINUTES I BET EVERY-ONE'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN
YOU'RE RIGHT ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOU'RE STARTING TO GAIN THE SPOT-LIGHT TOO.
Don't equate me with you.
Hmph
SHEW
SO BE EXTRA CAREFUL TODAY
IZUMI-SAN, EVEN UNDER NORMAL CON-DITIONS YOU'RE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION

POST
POST
SHE'S SO HUMBLE AND SWEET THAT GIRL'S REALLY DOWN TO EARTH
LOOK, IT'S TAKABAYASHI-SAN! HER POSTURE'S AS SHARP AS EVER.
WHISPER
WHISPER
COME ON, CHISATO! WHY DON'T YOU GO TALK TO TAKABA-YASHI-SAN?
B-BUT, I DON'T WANT TO INTERRUPT HER—
WHISPER
WHISPER
Thank you very much.
I brought some drinks.
!
!

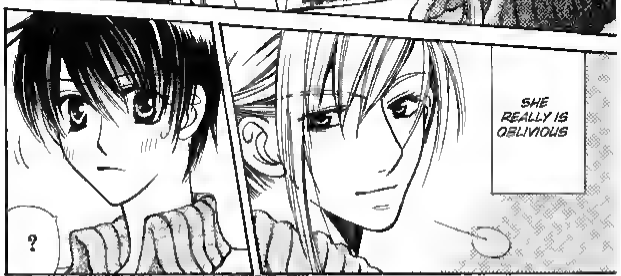

ALL STUDENTS, PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT THE STARTING POINT.
THE ANNUAL CAMPUS MARATHON IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
ATTENTION, EVERYONE
PPF BZZT BZZT
CHATTER
CHATTER

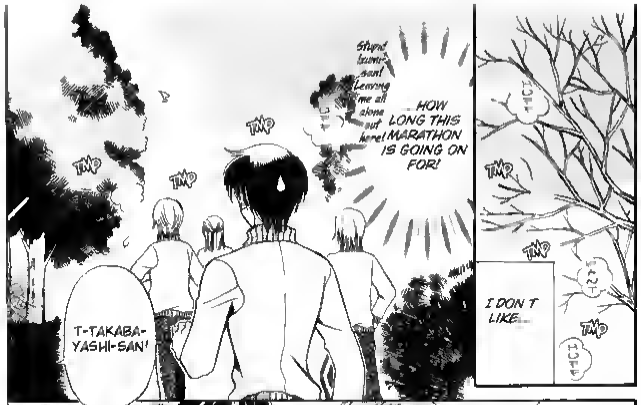
SHEESH THEY HAVE GOT TO BE KID-DING ME
MARATHON COURSE MAP FIRST YEARS: 6 KM COURSE
CHATTER
CHATTER
HERE YOU GO, HIKARU.
CHATTER
I wish I was at work instead...
FIRST THOSE TESTS AND NOW A STUPID MARATHON. THEY NEVER GIVE US A BREAK
SHUSH, IZUMI-SAN OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT HEAR YOU
You can't fight tradition
OH THANKS

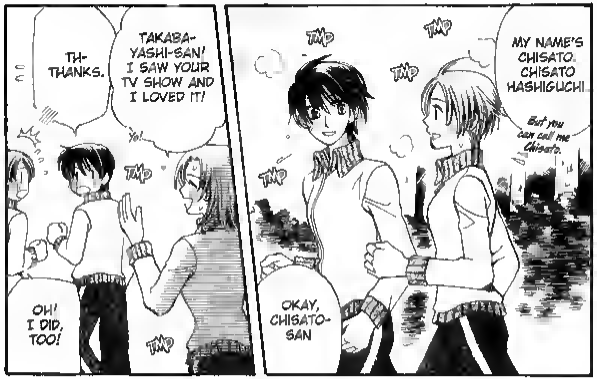
SHOCK
What the—!?
THAT SNEAKY LITTLE...!!
Y-YES, MA'AM
WILT
MAYBE YOU SHOULD SIT OUT THE RACE, KIDO-SAN
I'M SORRY. I'M JUST FEELING A LITTLE ANEMIC
KIDO-SAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER!?
OH, DEAR!
Yum yum!
Anemic!? Just last night he had a heaping plate of liver!!
Loves liver and onions.



*See Translator's Notes at back of book




Stupid teammate! Leaving me all alone out here!
...HOW LONG THIS MARATHON IS GOING ON FOR!
I DON'T LIKE...
T-TAKABA-YASHI-SAN!
OH, AND YOU ARE...?
DO... DO YOU MIND IF I RUN WITH YOU?


TH-THANKS.
TAKABA-YASHI-SAN! I SAW YOUR TV SHOW AND I LOVED IT!
OH! I DID, TOO!
MY NAME'S CHISATO. CHISATO HASHIGUCHI.
But you can call me Chisato.
OKAY, CHISATO-SAN

...IT MAKES THE OTHER STUDENTS TOO NERVOUS TO TALK TO HIKARU-SAN. THAT'S WHY YOU DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE, ISN'T IT?
HEH.
WHEN YOU'RE AROUND, IZUMI-SAMA...

IZUMI-SAMA, SHALL WE HEAD OVER TO THE FINISH LINE?
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
BE CAREFUL NOT TO WANDER OFF THE COURSE!

SINCE WHEN AM I A SOFTIE FOR SOME SILLY GIRL?
ARE YOU KIDDING? I WAS JUST FEELING TOO LAZY TO RUN.

THE MARATHON GETS WAY TOO UNBEARABLE.
STILL...
IF YOU DON'T TALK WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
I'd rather have fun than beat some running record
I HAVE TO ADMIT..
That does it. We're using time from now on.
S-sorry!
TMP
TMP
SHE'S RIGHT... BEING WITH YOUR FRIENDS IS THE BEST PART!
CHISATO, WHERE'RE YOU GOING!?
HUFF HUFF

TMP
TMP
TMP
AND HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO HOLD YOUR OWN AGAINST REAL ACTORS.
IT WAS...
IT WAS REALLY GOOD IT'S LIKE YOU *WERE* ASAKO, TAKABAYASHI-SAN
UM, CHISATO-SAN? IT'S THIS WAY
CHISATO, YOU'VE GOT NO SENSE OF DIRECTION WHATSOEVER.
BLUSH
DASH!
OOPS!
I'M SO SORRY!!
WHEEZE
HUFF
YOU'RE GONNA KILL YOURSELF TRYING TO RUN AND TALK AT THE SAME TIME
YEAH... I KNOW THAT..
BLUSH
IT WAS ALSO LIKE THAT
...WITH IZUMI-SAN...AT FIRST...
HUH?
UM..
TMP
TMP
HUFF
PANT
TMP
HUFF
IT'S KIND OF WEIRD KNOWING PEOPLE WHO ARE ON TV
BUT, ANYWAY

HERE THEY COME
I'LL BE GOING BACK TO WORK NOW
OKAY

HUFF
HUFF
PANT

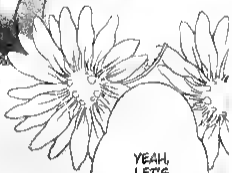
?
PANT
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
Nice job, girls!
Phew...

You lazy little...! We were working our butts off out there!
DASH!!
IZUMI-SAN!!
GOOD WORK
You still look chipper though.

!

SIGH

SORRY FOR THE HOLD-UP LET'S GET GOING
What am I? A dog?


YEAH, LET'S GO

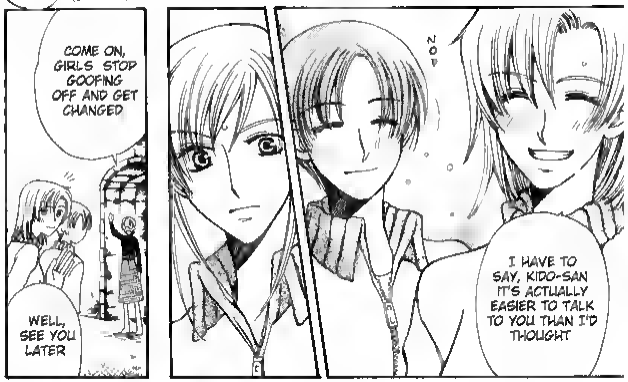
Oh! You-chan!
DEN
...THESE GIRLS ARE PRETTY FUN

BLUSH
SO, WHO ARE THESE GIRLS WITH YOU?
G-GOOD TO BE BACK!
U-UH...
Um...
That is...
U-UH! W-WE'RE UM...!
CHISATO HASHIGUCHI-SAN MICHIRU NOMURA-SAN AND YUU SAKI-SAN
OH, THESE ARE MY CLASSMATES
WE JUST STARTED HANGING OUT

FLOAT
WELCOME BACK
Th-thanks!
HERE YOU GO, GUYS
GULP GULP GULP
Happiness
SIGH!
Wow, it looks like Takabayashi-san could run another race.
I'M NOT FINISHED YET!
HIKARU
?

I SWEAR
JUST BECAUSE I HAVE FRIENDS DOESN'T MEAN YOUR SECRET'S AT RISK
WAIT, THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T MADE ANY FRIENDS ALL THIS TIME? YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME MINDING?
HUH? OH, NO THAT'S NOT WHY!
I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN THE TYPE TO MAKE FRIENDS IS ALL...

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY WE'RE FRIENDS NOW
WOW THAT SOUNDS... NICE
OH? A PLEASURE MEETING YOU
D-DITTO!


COME ON, GIRLS STOP GOOFING OFF AND GET CHANGED
WELL, SEE YOU LATER
NO?
I HAVE TO SAY, KIDO-SAN IT'S ACTUALLY EASIER TO TALK TO YOU THAN I'D THOUGHT

LISTEN
PLEASE DON'T WORRY, IZUMI-SAN
Did they say I'm easy to talk to?
HUH ...YOU'VE MADE SOME INTERESTING FRIENDS FOR YOURSELF THERE

She's said it so much, she now believes it
AND ANYWAY, WITH YOU AROUND ME, IZUMI-SAN--
HUH?
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT
HUG
DAMMIT, YOU SPEAK SUCH ADORABLE NONSENSE
MUFF
SILLY

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT, TSUKASA?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE SAKON FAMILY PLEADS...
...YOUR FEELINGS COME FIRST UNDERSTOOD?
IT'S OKAY.
I'VE MADE MY DECISION

THANKS!?
From you, Izumi-san!?
SMOK
SPIN
JUST CALL IT MY WAY OF SAYING "THANKS"
Wh-t'd you call me "a-a"?
HUH?
YOUR NEW PALS ARE WAITING FOR YOU.
TURN
ANYWAY, MORE IMPORTANTLY...
BONK
OW!
DON'T GET ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE It's rude, you know.

Hurry up Izumi-san
Hmph.
...I WANTED TO TELL HER SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
TAKABAYASHI-SAN, KIDO-SAN! WANNA GO EAT DINNER TOGETHER?
AH...
THE TRUTH IS...
OH, SURE!

Tenshi Janai!
天使じゃない!!
SCENE 22

I'M GOING TO STAND BY MINORI.
End of Scene 21

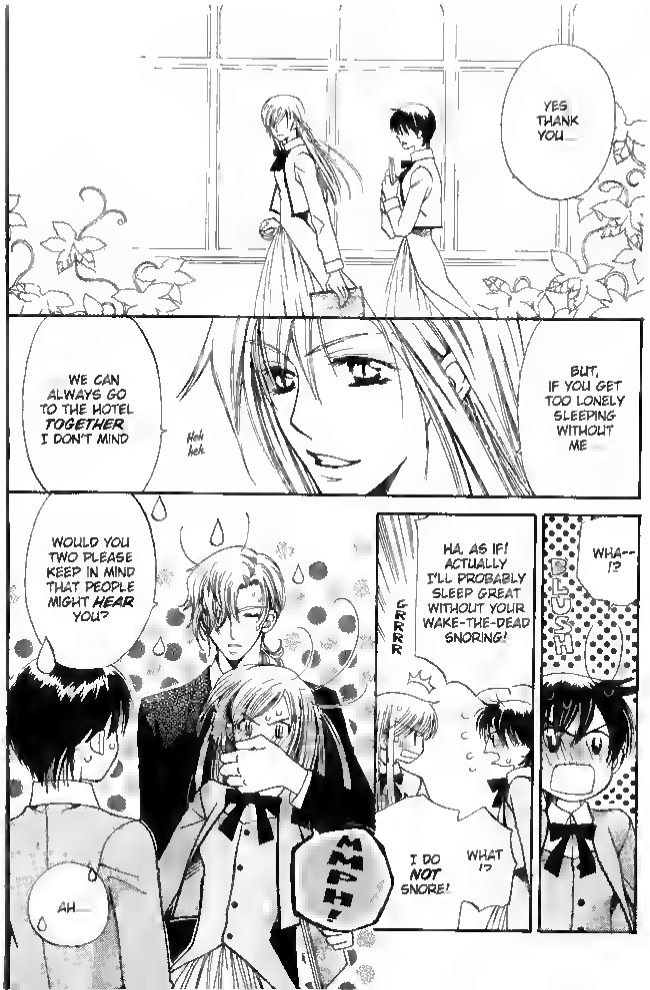
TRUST US... IT WILL BE BETTER THIS WAY
B-BUT... I CAN DO IT I DON'T HAVE THAT MANY CLASSES TODAY OR ANYTHING...
WHISH
YOU'RE RIGHT... GOOD LUCK TODAY...
Heh heh...
DO YOU WANT MY AGENT TO GO BOOSTING YOUR FAME EVEN MORE?
TAP...
TAP
TAKE IT EASY FOR ONCE.
You too, Sumikin.
Take care!
AKIZUKI MIGHT NOT HESITATE TO WRANGLE YOU INTO MORE ROLES
NOW THAT YOU'VE PLAYED A ROLE ON TV...

Chisato Hashiguchi (16 years old)
Born. June 30
Blood Type: A
Kind of a bubble-brain. Founding member of a Seika campus secret club known as the "Hikaru Takabayashi Unofficial Fan Club" (It seems.)

...ACCOMPANYING IZUMI-SAN TO WORK HAD BECOME PART OF MY REGULAR ROUTINE

IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO COME AND VISIT MY FAMILY AND ME
OF COURSE, KIDO-SAN CAN COME, TOO
HUH?
CHISATO'S FAMILY RUNS AN INN IN KYOTO.
IT'S JUST SOME OLD INN BUT
THEY WOULDN'T MIND?
Woww-wow-wow!! This is like real friends!
WAG
WAG
JOY
OH, BUT
DROOP
..AN OVER-NIGHT STAY MIGHT NOT BE SAFE FOR IZUMI-SAN.

WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER ?
I'm not good with the cold.
YEAH, BECAUSE MICHIRU-CHAN AND I ARE GOING BACK HOME FOR VACATION
IT'S REALLY COLD OUT, THOUGH MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE JUST HUNG OUT IN THE DORM
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO, HIKARU-SAN?
I GUESS I'LL BE STAYING ON CAM-PUS
OH! IN THAT CASE...
I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE GOING ALL THE WAY TO FRANCE TO SEE MY MOM AND HER NEW HUSBAND.
WITH WINTER VACATION STARTING SOON, WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE AND
WELL WE WANTED TO INVITE YOU OUT FOR A WALK


YES THANK YOU...
BUT, IF YOU GET TOO LONELY SLEEPING WITHOUT ME...
Heh heh.
WE CAN ALWAYS GO TO THE HOTEL TOGETHER I DON'T MIND
WOULD YOU TWO PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT PEOPLE MIGHT HEAR YOU?
AH...
HA, AS IF! ACTUALLY I'LL PROBABLY SLEEP GREAT WITHOUT YOUR WAKE-THE-DEAD SNORING!
GRRR
I DO NOT SNORE!
WHAT!?
WHA--!?
BLUSH
THE NEXT DAY...
SURE, WHY NOT?
STAYING OVER?
I'LL JUST MAKE SOME EXCUSE TO STAY IN A HOTEL WHILE WE'RE THERE
B-BUT, IZUMI-SAN--
BESIDES, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?
WE CAN LIMIT VISITING HER FAMILY TO DURING THE DAY.

WHAT I'VE HEARD IS HE'S GOING ABROAD WITH SAKON -SEMPAI
AWWW, HOW ROMANTIC!
Omigod! ♡
A STUPID RUMOR!!
IT'S JUST...
A RUMOR. THAT'S ALL
WHEN I SEE SENSEI, I'LL TELL ME
I'M HEADING BACK TO THE DORM
IZUMI-SAMA WE SHOULD BE GETTING READY FOR WORK
KYOTO, EH...?
YOU'RE RIGHT
I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO TALK WITH HIM LATELY.
TMP
NO WAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE AYASE-SENSEI WOULD DO THAT...
!?
NO I SWEAR IT'S TRUE HE'S LEAVING SCHOOL THIS SEMESTER
HMM... I WONDER IF I SHOULD TELL SENSEI

SLAM
WHAT'S GOING ON, HIKARU? YOU'RE BACK EARLY
IZUMI-SAN
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HANGING OUT WITH CHISATO AND MICHIRU
UM ACTUALLY, TONIGHT I'M--
CRAP! IT'S ALREADY SO LATE!?
.....

PHEW
SENSE--
TAKABA-YASHI
WE NEED TO TALK
COME TO THE CHAPEL TONIGHT
PASS
SENSEI

CREAK

AH...
OKAY
HURRY
SCURRY
SORRY, HIKARU! I'VE GOTTA RUN OR I'LL BE LATE ON SET!

SLAM
SIGH

W-WAIT A MINUTE, SENSEI!
SHE HASN'T EXACTLY TOLD ME ABOUT IT HERSELF, BUT--
I GOT WORD THAT MINORI'S -- I MEAN, SAKON'S RECOVERY HASN'T BEEN GOING WELL...
LEAVING THE SCHOOL... THEN THAT MEANS--
I WANT TO...
...BE BY HER SIDE AND SEE HER THROUGH THIS

SENSEI
.....
TAKABAYASHI
I'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE SCHOOL. MY PLANE LEAVES NEXT WEEK
HUH?

NO. THIS ENDS HERE.
!
Y-YOU'LL COME BACK THOUGH, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, YOU AND I ARE...

...I KNOW THAT...
IF I ABANDONED SAKON TO REMAIN HERE...
...I CAN ACCEPT THAT!
I DON'T CARE! AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL HERE...
...I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SMILE EVER AGAIN. NOT EVEN WHEN I'M WITH YOU, HIKARU

WHO GETS CLOSE TO YOU IS MY BUSINESS!!
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST LEFT ME ALONE, THEN?
DON'T SAY THAT. IT'S SO SELFISH
I MEAN, WHY...
DON'T.
IF YOU REALLY DIDN'T CARE, THEN WHY...!?

SOB
!
HUG
N-NO!
I DON'T WANT IT TO END LIKE THIS!
GRIP
...!
YOU'D LOSE YOUR SMILE TOO
I CAN'T STAY HERE BECAUSE THEN EVENTUALLY...
NO.
BECAUSE I...
DRIP
DRIP
...CAN SMILE FOR THE BOTH OF US!

SENSEI
FOR YOU, THIS LOVE IS A PATHWAY.
THAT'S THE HIKARU
. THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH

BUT I REALIZED QUICKLY.
WHEN I FIRST MET YOU.
I THOUGHT THAT YOU IDOLIZED KIDO
... THAT YOUR DELICATE NATURE AND YOUR KINDNESS WERE SO MUCH STRONGER THAN HER STARDOM
AND THAT YOU ONLY HELPED KIDO TO TRY TO GET CLOSER TO HER STRENGTH AND HER FAME

K-CLICK
IZUMI-SAMA!!
Kido
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN HERE, YOU KNOW
...SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED BACK AT THE SCHOOL
I'M SORRY, BUT...
I STILL HAVE ANOTHER SCENE TO SHOOT.
AYASE'S LEAVING? JUST LIKE THAT!?

...IT'S LEADING YOU BEYOND THIS FLEETING INFATUATION TO SOMEONE YOU CAN REALLY LOVE
EVEN IF IT'S PAINFUL NOW
IF IT WERE JUST INFATUATION...
...IT WOULDN'T HURT THIS MUCH.
LIAR.

K-CLICK
HIKARU...?

IT SEEMS WHILE MINORI SAKON WAS AWAY, HER CONDITION GOT WORSE. HE'LL BE ACCOMPANYING HER FOR MORE MEDICAL TREATMENT
THE NEWS HAS ALREADY SPREAD AROUND THE SCHOOL, SO WE CAN BET HIKARU-SAN KNOWS, TOO
I'M SORRY I HAVE WORK TO DO. WE'LL DEAL WITH IT LATER.
IZUMI-SAMA!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW.
PHEW
OF COURSE
GET THE CAR AND KEEP THE ENGINE RUNNING. WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS I'M DONE

HE TAKES MY SMILE WITH HIM!
HE KNOWS THAT WHEN HE GOES...
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY ON!
SENSEI'S SUCH AN IDIOT!

IZUMI-SAN, I
...GOT DUMPED BY SENSEI.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T GET HERE EARLIER...
CREAK
SQUEEZE
.....

WHA...?
IZUMI-SAN...?

THUMP.
SLEEP.
I CAN'T...
...EVEN THINK STRAIGHT ANYMORE
ZZZ
I KNOW IT HURTS NOW, BUT
I CAN'T RESIST CELEBRATING THIS SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS.

CHIRP
CHIRP
GASP
NN...?
!?
IZUMI-SA--
THAT'S RIGHT--YESTER-DAY.
SLEEP

JUST FORGET ALL ABOUT HIM

TENSHI JA NAI!
天使じゃない!!
SCENE 23

SENSEI, HE
OH GOD...
DOESN'T LOVE ME ANYMORE

I WANT YOU AND KIDO-SAN TO BE THE ONES TO PRESENT HIM WITH OUR GIFTS WILL YOU REPRESENT THE FIRST-YEAR CLASS?
WAIT A MINUTE, I--
GRIP
NO PROBLEM
AFTER ALL, HIKARU-SAN AND I HAVE SPENT THE MOST TIME WITH SENSEI
IZUMI-SAN...?

I WANT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO ADD YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGES FOR SENSEI TO THE CARD
CHATTER
CHATTER
IF EVERYONE CAN SIGN IT BY TOMORROW, WE SHOULD MAKE IT IN TIME
GASP
LASTLY, TAKABAYASHI-SAN?
YES...?
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW MARKS THE END OF THE SEMESTER.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE IF AT THE CLOSING ASSEMBLY, WE COULD GIVE AYASE-SENSEI A BOUQUET AND CARD SIGNED BY EVERYONE

My Current Addictions

I just realized recently that it seems my addictions come in waves...

I got into ROMANCE NOVELS → (that's all I read for one month)

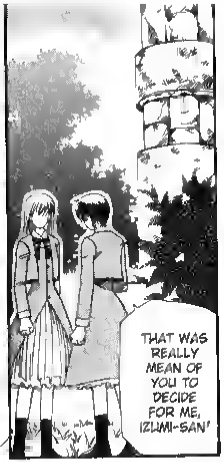
→ A CERTAIN NINJA ANIME → (only on DVD)

→ GOURMET FOOD (I tried to withstand temptation)

→ GAMING → (like an infatuated monkey)

→ THE INTERNET → (that bewitching box makes you lose track of time)..

→ ...and then I get back into romance novels... (endless)



PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
THANKS
LEAVE EVERY-THING TO ME
TAKE CARE OF HIKARU FOR ME WHILE I'M AT WORK
VROOOM
I KNOW SHE'S NOT A GIRL WHO CAN CHANGE HER FEELINGS AT THE DROP OF A HAT
EVEN IF I WASN'T TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER DURING HER TIME OF WEAKNESS...
MAYBE THAT WASN'T THE BEST TIMING IN THE WORLD

IGNORE
IF I WERE A NORMAL STUDENT, I'D HAVE NO PROB-LEM SEEING HIM OFF, BUT..
SINCE THINGS WENT THE WAY THEY DID
I CAN ONLY BE GLAD I DIDN'T PUBLICLY CONFESS MY LOVE FOR HIM.
.....

Back to how it was.
EMPTY
WHAT THE...!?
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
THUNK
CHECK
Hmm
Hmm
I THOUGHT I PACKED THAT STUFF ALREADY
MY SCHEDULE'S BEEN BUMPED UP.
I'M LEAVING RIGHT AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONY TOMORROW
YOU STILL HAVE FIVE DAYS. AREN'T YOU GETTING A LITTLE AHEAD OF YOURSELF WITH THE PACKING?
O-ouch...
SQUEEZE
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

RUMMAGE
SHIFT
RUMMAGE
HOW DID I GET STUCK ON SUCH AN OBNOXIOUS GIRL!?
Ugh I can't take it any more...
SLUMP
SLUMP

HIKARU-SAN HAS IZUMI-SAMA AND MYSELF
SO GO TAKE YOUR LITTLE TRIP AND DROP WHATEVER TORCH YOU MIGHT STILL CARRY FOR HER.
FAR BE IT FOR ME TO SAY SOMETHING THAT MIGHT EASE YOUR MIND, BUT...
!
THAT'S SOME JUSTIFICATION, YOU PIG!
You some kind of pimp?
SMACK
SLAP

.....
SLAM
TORCH...?

!
EVERY TIME YOU SEE HIKARU-SAN ON CAMPUS, YOUR DETERMINATION WEAKENS, DOESN'T IT?
I SEE... SO YOU REALLY ARE RUNNING AWAY

.....
BUT IT'S TOO LATE YOU'VE HURT HER BADLY.

IT MAY SEEM SELFISH, BUT BOTH TAKABAYASHI AND SAKON ARE IMPORTANT TO ME.
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO ONLY ONE SPECIAL PERSON
I KNOW, BUT I'M NOT LIKE YOU

OH... THANKS, CHISATO-SAN.
HUFF
HUFF
TMP
TMP
HERE'S SENSEI'S CARD. YOU AND KIDO-SAMA WILL BE THE LAST TWO TO SIGN IT
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TAKABAYASHI-SAN?
TOMORROW!?
SENSEI'S TRIP'S BEEN MOVED UP TO TOMORROW, SO TRY TO GET IT DONE RIGHT AWAY
SENSEI'S GOING AWAY FOR GOOD...?
YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST!
HERE, SIT DOWN.
IT'S... NOTHING.

SPLASH
THE NEXT DAY...
SPLASH
SPLASH
BOOONK
HOP
HOP
HEY! TAKABAYASHI-SAN!
?

WHATEVER YOU WANT TO WRITE IN THE CARD, TAKABAYASHI-SAN...
WHATEVER YOU WANT TO LET SENSEI KNOW... I THINK YOU SHOULD WRITE THAT. THAT WAY, YOU WON'T REGRET ANYTHING
I KNOW THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE, BUT...
NO THAT MEANT A LOT, CHIGATO-SAN.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'D REGRET IT IF I DIDN'T WRITE ANYTHING
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT
I CAN FACE UP TO THIS
I DON'T WANT TO...
REGRET MY TIME WITH SENSEI

WHAT SHOULD I WRITE...?
GRIP
IT'S WEIRD
MY MIND'S ALL CLOUDY
I JUST CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU IN SUCH AGONY!
LISTEN, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO
HUH?
YOU AND AYASE-SENSEI WERE CLOSE
I UNDERSTAND NOW HARD IT MUST BE TO HAVE TO GIVE HIM THE CARD.
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PUT THIS BUT...

OH, IT'S THE CARD
TH-THUMP
FLINCH
O-OOPS
SORRY
R-RIGHT.
UH... UM, HERE'S YOUR PAGE IZUMI-SAN
I-IZUMI-SAN! WHAT'RE YOU...!?
HUH?

I STILL..
..LOVE HIM
I DON'T WANT TO JUST LET IT GO
I CAN'T PASSIVELY ACCEPT HIS REJECTION
HEY, I'M HOME
WEL-COME BACK
?
sigh
IT'S NO GOOD I CAN'T ORGANIZE MY THOUGHTS

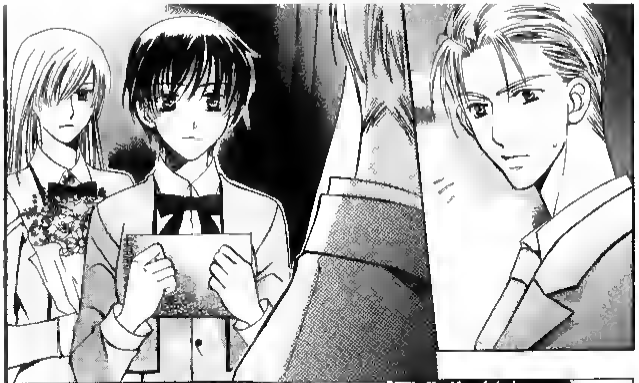
WHAT DO I WANT TO TELL SENSEI?
SHEW
SLIDE
SKRITCH
DEAR AYASE-SENSEI
"IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A YEAR SINCE I FIRST MET YOU THIS PAST SUMMER."
"DEAR AYASE-SENSEI..."
"AND I'M A LITTLE SAD THAT WE HAD SUCH A SMALL AMOUNT OF TIME TOGETHER."

TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
OKAY.
I'LL BE DOWN AS SOON AS I'M DONE WRITING THIS
B-BY THE WAY THEY'RE SERVING DINNER NOW, SO..
THP

IT'S FULL!
GAH!
GAH!
THIS IS MORE LIKE A LETTER THAN A CARD!
GRUMPH
NO..
WIPE
I CAN'T ACTUALLY TELL SENSEI EVERYTHING I WANT TO
GRIP

DRIP
DRIP
AH.

IT WAS DURING THOSE SUMMER NIGHTS.
..THAT I REALIZED I WAS IN LOVE.
SENSEI

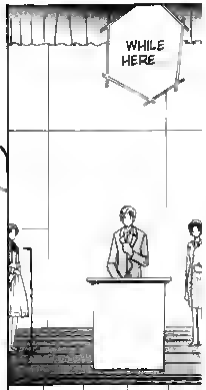


.....

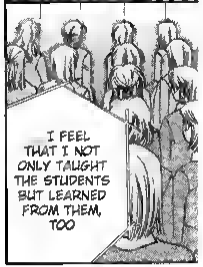
BOW
THANK YOU
...FOR EVERYTHING

I KNOW I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE A SHORT WHILE, BUT TODAY IS MY LAST DAY TEACHING AT THIS SCHOOL

...AND WORK HARD TO SHOW THAT SEIKA STUDENTS ARE THE BEST THERE IS
YOU ALL HAVE SUCH SCHOOL SPIRIT, I HOPE YOU KEEP GOING

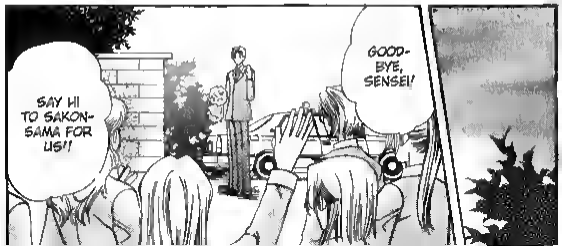

WHILE HERE

THANK YOU
THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVES WISH TO PRESENT GOODBYE GIFTS TO SENSEI


I FEEL THAT I NOT ONLY TAUGHT THE STUDENTS BUT LEARNED FROM THEM, TOO

YES.
DID YOU SAY WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY?
ALL OF IT.
THAT PLACE IS THE TOP-RANKING ALL-GIRLS' SCHOOL, ISN'T IT?
AMA-ZING!
SO, YOU WERE A SCHOOL-TEACHER?
VROOOM
THAT'S RIGHT

TAKE CARE.


SAY HI TO SAKON-SAMA FOR US!!
GOOD-BYE, SENSEI!

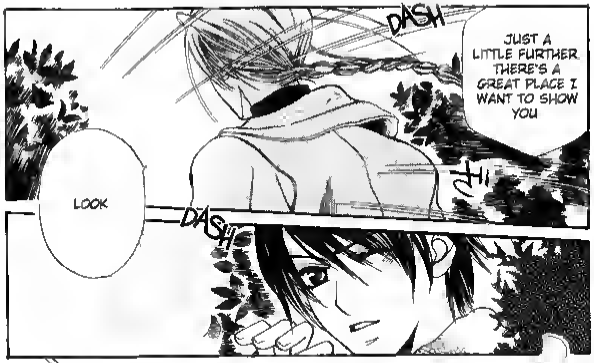
CHAPTER
CHAPTER
CHAPTER
CHAPTER
I loved you
Hikaru
Takabayashi
YES, AND
IT'S STUDENTS
WERE THE MOST
PRECIOUS PEOPLE
I EVER MET
HEH
YOU JERK
Izumi Kido

SWPP...
!
HUH?
COME WITH ME FOR A MINUTE
GRAB
I-IZUMI-SAN!?
PUSH
HUFF
HUFF
DASH
DASH
I-IZUMI-SAN! WHERE ARE WE GOING!?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

SENSEI...
YO
IZUMI-SAN...?
I JUST MADE A QUICK DASH TO THE DORM

AH! SUMIKKO!!
ISN'T IT COOL? I FOUND IT WHILE I WAS WANDERING AROUND WITH SUMIKKO
WOOF
WOOF
AH
SNOW

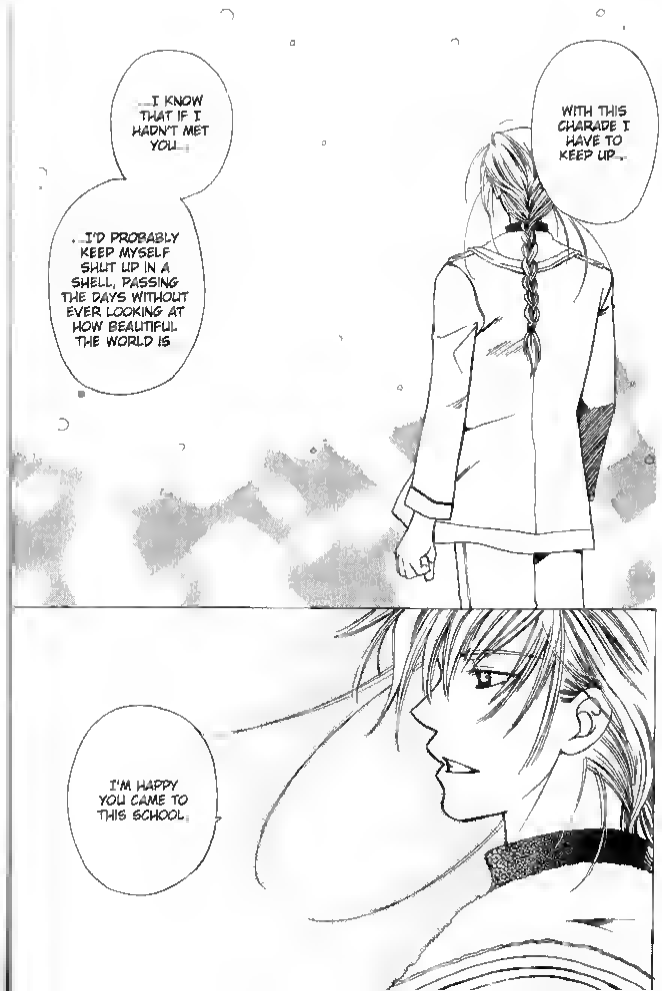
TH-THANK YOU, YASUKUNI-SAN
HIKARU-SAN, I BROUGHT SOME HOT COCOA, TOO
?
Come here
HIKARU


DASH
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER THERE'S A GREAT PLACE I WANT TO SHOW YOU
LOOK
DASH!

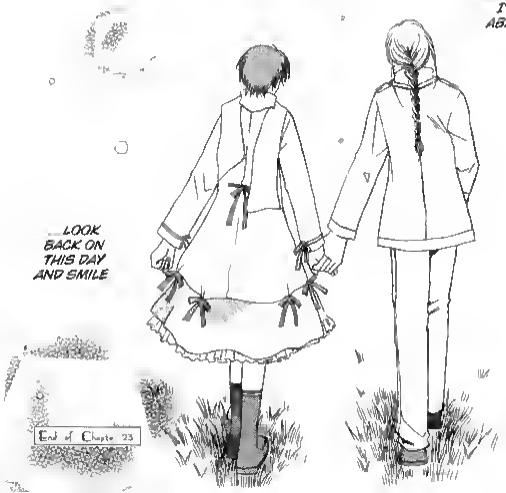
WHOOSH

AND IN THE SUMMER WE'LL GO TO THE BEACH AND EAT YAKISOBA AND SLUSHIES
SLOW DOWN! IT'S TOO SOON TO BE TALKING ABOUT SUMMER
IN THE FALL, WE'LL HUNT FOR MUSHROOMS AND HAVE YASUKUNI MAKE HIS SPECIAL STEW

* See Translator's Notes at back of book


...I KNOW THAT IF I HADN'T MET YOU...
...I'D PROBABLY KEEP MYSELF SHUT UP IN A SHELL, PASSING THE DAYS WITHOUT EVER LOOKING AT HOW BEAUTIFUL THE WORLD IS.
WITH THIS CHARADE I HAVE TO KEEP UP...
I'M HAPPY YOU CAME TO THIS SCHOOL.

YES!
IZUMI-SAN...
!
AND CHISATO AND MICHIRU, IF YOU WANT
AND WE CAN BRING YASUKUNI AND SUMIKKO, TOO
MAKE A MOUNTAIN OF GOOD MEMORIES FOR OURSELVES.
WE'LL GO ALL OUT AND...



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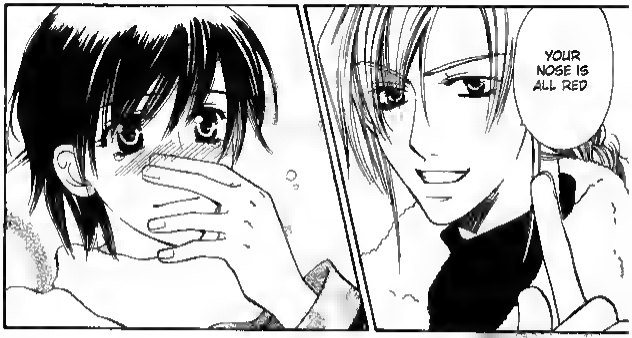


January in Kyoto
HURRY UP, HIKARU-SAN! LET'S GO!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
GULP.
PREPARED FOR DEATH
DASH
Waaah!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
I'M COMING

天使じゃない!!

SCENE 24

PHEEEW
EXHAUSTED
WHAT!? OH NO I'M FINE
I'M SO SORRY MY MOM MADE YOU WEAR THAT LONG-SLEEVED KIMONO YESTERDAY
HIKARU-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
It looks so good on you!
Maybe we'll Dress Up Doll
SNOOORE
SNOOORE
Heh, he's so defense-less--
My pet dog.
A Short Break & Commercial
Along with this current installment of Tenshi Ja Nai!! volume 5, Princess Comics Mini Princess printed my story "King of the Lamp"! I hope you enjoy it, too.

CHOMP

OH, HIKARU-SAN LOOKS LIKE THE BULLET TRAIN'S ALREADY ARRIVED
THEN WE'D BETTER HURRY!
EVER SINCE WHAT HAPPENED WITH SENSEI...
IZUMI-SAN'S BEEN MAKING AN EXTRA EFFORT TO CHEER ME UP.
YEP...
HIKARU-SAN...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

I HAVE TO ADMIT, I DIDN'T WANT TO GO ON THIS TRIP AT ALL
I'D NEVER WORN A KIMONO BEFORE, SO
...IT WAS KIND OF A NEAT EXPERIENCE
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE PLANNED. WHY NOT GO WITH CHISATO AND MICHIRU?
SIZZLE
DON'T TELL ME YOU'D RATHER SIT AROUND IN THE ROOM BY YOURSELF
I DUNNO. I'M JUST NOT FEELING UP TO IT.
CHEW
CHEW
I'VE GOT A GIG IN THE KANSAI REGION AS IT IS.
SO, LET'S GO.

WHAT THE...?
O-OKAY
SNEAK
SNEAK
THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE FAST
Waaah!!
Izumi-chan!
STAMPEDE
WAH!
HIKARU! GET A MOVE ON!
WHAT!? YOU'RE USING CHISATO'S FAMILY INN AS A FILM LOCATION, KIDO-SAN!?

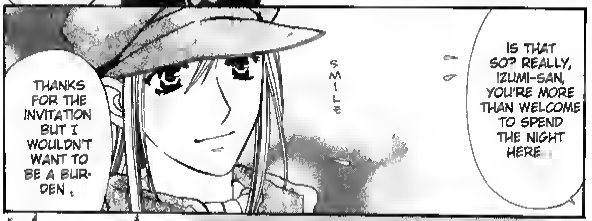
CHATTER
Izumi-chan!
She's so cute!
Izumi-chaaan!
ALLEY
CHATTER
Eee!
I DON'T WANT TO CALL TO HIM
CLENCH
OH! IZUMI-SAN!!
YOU'RE LATE, HIKARU-SAN
What!? But...
CH-CHISATO-SAN, WOULD IT BE BAD OF US IF WE PRETENDED NOT TO SEE HER AND LEFT?
Kurobe-kun!!
Awaaah!!
Congrats!
We're in the same shoot!
HOW CRUEL..
WE'LL JUST USE KUROBE-SAN AS A DECOY HE CAME ON THE SAME TRAIN
HOW WILL WE EVER GET THROUGH THAT MOB?
THROB
THROB
THROB
Izumi-san, that hurt...
Sssh...
IT'S GOING TO TAKE ALL THE STEALTH WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE UN-NOTICED

IZUMI-SAN! HIKARU-SAN! HURRY UP!
BE THERE IN A SEC!
OH! I READ ABOUT THIS CANDY STORE IN A MAGAZINE. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE REALLY GOOD!

CREEPS AT 2 O'CLOCK
HM?
LISTEN, IZUMI-SAN... SOME WEIRD GUYS I SAW AT THE TRAIN STATION FOLLOWED US HERE

WHAT!? THAT MUST BE AWFUL!
MY AGENCY'S REALLY SECRETIVE ABOUT MY PERSONAL INFO, SO THEY TRY TO FIND IT OUT FOR THEMSELVES
OH, THOSE MAGAZINE REPORTERS?
THEY'RE ALWAYS TRAILING AFTER ME

I'm all worked and we haven't even started.
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S FOR A TRAVEL PROGRAM I'M DOING WITH THE COMEDIAN, KUROBE-SAN.
NO WAY! YOU DON'T MEAN KUROBE FROM THE COMEDY DUO HABAKURO, DO YOU!?
SLUMP
OH CHISATO-CHAN ARE YOU GOING OUT?
YEAH, MOM
SINCE IZUMI-SAN'S WORKING TOMORROW, I FIGURED WE COULD SHOW HER AROUND TODAY
MY MOM'S ALSO REALLY EXCITED


THANKS FOR THE INVITATION BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN.
SMILE
IS THAT SO? REALLY, IZUMI-SAN, YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE.

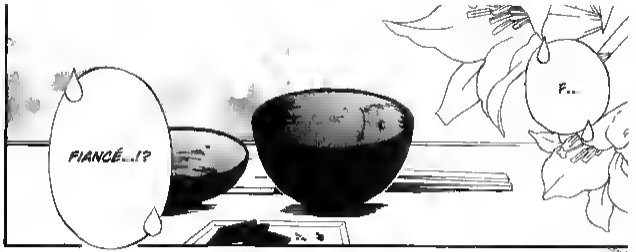
HAVE A GOOD TIME! BE CAREFUL!
WELL, WE'RE GOING NOW GOOD-BYE CHISATO'S MOM!

*See Translator's Notes at back of book.

AZUMI-SAN HAS ONLY STARTED GOING OUT WITH HER RECENTLY BUT I...
I PROBABLY SEEM WEIRD, BUT
CHISATO-SAN ..?

THIS WAS DECIDED WHEN WE WERE JUST CHILDREN
AS HIS FAMILY RUNS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT OUR UNION WILL BENEFIT BOTH FAMILIES
EVERYONE'S EXCITED ABOUT MY PROMOTION AND HIS ADOPTION INTO THE CLAN

IT'S BEEN SO LONG, IT JUST FEELS NORMAL TO ME NOW...
.....


F..
FIANCÉ...!?

BUT DIDN'T HE JUST COME IN HERE WITH ANOTHER GIRL?
OUR MARRIAGE WAS SET UP BY OUR PARENTS BUT WE CAN DATE ANYONE WE WANT IN THE MEANTIME

M-MICHIRU-SAN!
YOUR PARENTS PICKED HIM!? HOW HORRIBLE!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HER PARENTS THINK, MARRYING A JERK LIKE THAT IS JUST WRONG!!
COME ON, YOU GUYS! YOU SAW HOW RUDE HE WAS TO CHISATO!

YES AFTER I GRADUATE, I'LL BECOME THE PROPRIETRESS..
OF THE FAMILY INN AND AZUMI-SAN WILL BE MY HUSBAND

B-BUT ...!
WHAT RIGHT DO ONLOOKERS LIKE US HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?
TELLING HER YOU THINK IT'S WRONG IS WHAT A FRIEND WOULD DO
CHISATO'S JUST DEALING WITH IT THE BEST SHE KNOWS HOW
BUT SO IS SUPPORTING HER FINAL DECISION RIGHT?

IZUMI-SAN WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT CHISATO-SAN'S ENGAGEMENT?
DON'T YOU THINK A GIRL WOULD NORMALLY WANT TO MARRY THE MAN SHE LOVES?
WHAT DO I THINK?
YEAH, ABOUT WHAT SHE SAID.
DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S OKAY TO HAVE THAT FREEDOM TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU?

I'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS ON MY MIND
UM, ABOUT LUNCH... I THINK MICHIRU-SAN'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU, CHISATO-SAN.
I KNOW
IT'S JUST...
UNTIL NOW, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT RUNNING THE INN AND GETTING MARRIED WAS THE MOST NATURAL THING TO DO
I SEE
BUT WHEN MICHIRU-CHAN SAID THAT TODAY...
...AND I COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE ANY KIND OF ALTERNATE FUTURE...
...IT SCARED ME.

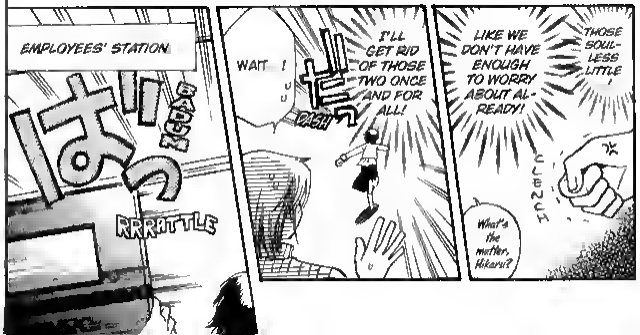
YEAH. I GUESS SO
I AGREED WITH HIM BUT...
THE TRUTH IS, I CAN'T COMPLETELY ACCEPT THE IDEA
HIKARU-SAN?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE ASLEEP?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
...FOR ME, ENDING UP WITH THE ONE I LOVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING.
AFTER ALL

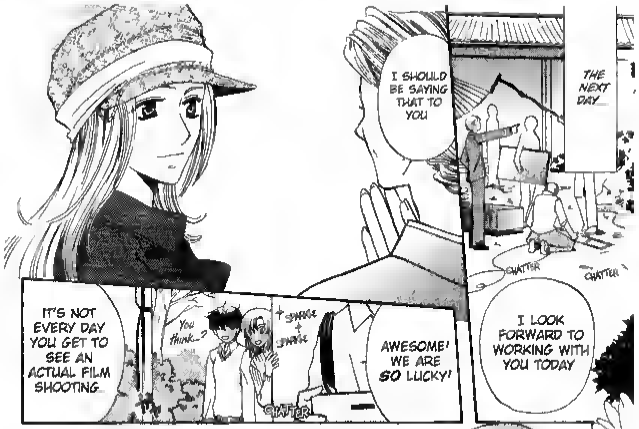
IT'S NOT ME SOMEONE ELSE MADE ME THINK OF IT.
EVERYTHING I SAID
WAS SOMETHING I LEARNED FROM IZUMI-SAN ON OUR JOURNEY.
SWITCH
SWITCH
SWITCH

THINK OF THIS MARRIAGE AS A RAILWAY YOUR PARENTS LAID OUT FOR YOU. IF THERE'S NO OTHER ROUTE YOU WANT TO TAKE, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY QUALMS ABOUT GETTING ONBOARD.
I CAN'T CLAIM THIS IS AN ORIGINAL THOUGHT, BUT...
HUH?
MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING.
NOT AT ALL.
THIS PROBABLY SOUNDS SO RECK-LESS, BUT
ALONG THE WAY, IF YOU SEE A MORE INTERESTING STOP, YOU CAN GET OFF AND EXPLORE
THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY.
OTHER PATHS MAY OPEN UP TO YOU, BUT ONLY IF YOU WANT THEM TO
THANK YOU, HIKARU-SAN

TAKABA-YASHI-SAN...
CHISATO-SAN UNDERSTANDS THAT YOU'RE ONLY WORRIED ABOUT HER.
IT'S OKAY.
SORRY, GUYS SEE YOU LATER.
MICHIRU-SAN CHISATO-SAN IS...
Sigh
I KNOW, I'VE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH.

THE REPORT-ERS!
SNEAK SNEAK
!?

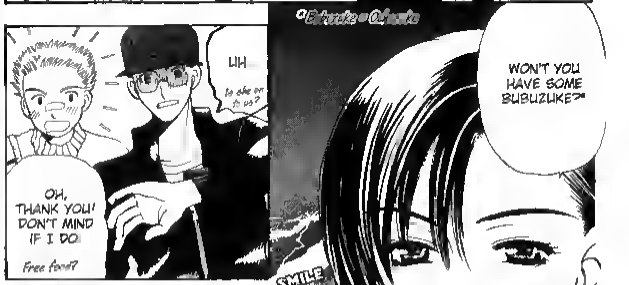

EMPLOYEES' STATION
RRRITTLE
WAIT!
I'LL GET RID OF THOSE TWO ONCE AND FOR ALL!
CRASH
LIKE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT ALREADY!
THOSE SOULLESS LITTLE...
CLENCH
What's the matter, Hikaru?


I SHOULD BE SAYING THAT TO YOU
THE NEXT DAY...
CHATTER
CHATTER
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO SEE AN ACTUAL FILM SHOOTING.
You think...?
SHARE + SHARE
CHATTER
AWESOME! WE ARE SO LUCKY!
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TODAY

YEP. AS THE FUTURE PROPRIE-TRESS MYSELF AND AZUMI-SAN--
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN IT!
HEY!
AH, YES!
CAN WE GET THIS OVER WITH ALREADY?

CHISATO!!
MICHIRU-CHAN! HIKARU-SAN!

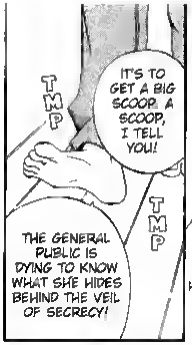
OH, I SEE...
IN THAT CASE...
YEAH, UM, IT SEEMS WE TOOK A WRONG TURN SOMEWHERE...
YOU DOPE!
OH, UH, WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY GUESTS HERE--
mmph!


UH...
Is she or is she not?
OH, THANK YOU! DON'T MIND IF I DO.
Free food?

YOU IDIOT!
YULUCK! WHAT IS THIS STUFF? IT'S SO SALTY!
BLEH BLEH

DEVIL'S CITY KYOTO
DOOOOOM
SAY WHAT!?
IN KYOTO, "PLEASE HAVE SOME OCHAZUKE" MEANS "SCRAM!"

Ochazuke or Oshiruko
WON'T YOU HAVE SOME BUBUZUKE?*
SMILE
にっこり

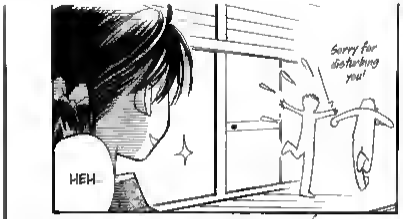

IT'S TO GET A BIG SCOOP. A SCOOP, I TELL YOU!
THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS DYING TO KNOW WHAT SHE HIDES BEHIND THE VEIL OF SECRECY!
TMP
TMP

WHAT'RE YOU SO NERVOUS ABOUT? HOTELS DON'T REQUIRE YOU TO BE A GUEST TO ENTER SO THIS SHOULD BE THE SAME
BUT WHAT ABOUT INSTALLING A HIDDEN CAMERA IN KIDO-SAN'S CHANGING ROOM...?

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO WALK RIGHT IN LIKE THIS, SEMPAI...?

whish
はいっ
I'M CERTAIN THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING HUGE FROM US!
AND THINK ABOUT HER AGENCY'S LEVEL OF PRIVACY

* HIKARU WITH WIG AND KIMONO
WELCOME


Sorry for disturbing you!
HEH...

SHEW
I'M GLAD I LISTENED TO CHIGATO-SAN'S MOM ABOUT HOW TO GET RID OF ANNOYING MEN...
HIKARU
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU UP TO?
OH! IZUMI-SAN!

LET ME GO MAKE SOME MORE.
DON'T GO ANYWHERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK...
WAAAH!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FELL FOR IT! YOU'RE HOPELESS!
Why?
Huh?
SIGH...

HEH
HEH
HEH
IF WORD GETS OUT, EVEN OUR GRANDCHILDREN'LL SUFFER THE HUMILIATION!
WAS IT TOO SALTY? I'M SO SORRY

WHAT'S WITH THIS WAITRESS? SHE'S CREEPING ME OUT!
MAYBE I USED SOME SPOILED SALT?
IT SEEMED PERFECTLY FINE WHEN I TRIED IT EARLIER

EARTH TO CHI-SATO
WHAT'RE YOU ZONING OUT ABOUT?
OH...
I FEEL RE-ENER-GIZED
WHAT?
AZUMI-SAN, THAT WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND YESTERDAY, WASN'T IT?
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
IS SHE IMPOR-TANT TO YOU?

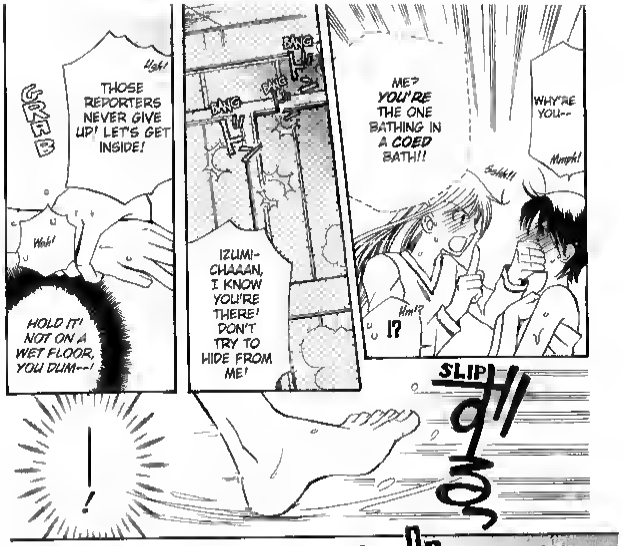
YOU'RE DRIPPING WITH SWEAT.
LOOK AT YOU.
OKAY
CLENCH
NOTHING I JUST EXTERMINATED SOME RATHER PESKY BUGS.
Felt great!
IT'D BE A SHAME TO RUIN THAT BEAUTIFUL KIMONO. IT LOOKS SO GOOD WITH YOUR FIGURE

HSD
TAP TAP TAP
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION ABOUT?
NO WAY.
!!
IZUMI-SAN...!?

YOU KNOW THAT I DON'T WANT TO MARRY YOU
WHO WOULDN'T RATHER SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIFE WITH SOMEONE THEY ACTUALLY LOVE?

KERPLUNK
Ahhhh...
NOTHING BEATS HAVING THE BATH ALL TO YOURSELF.
ESPECIALLY AFTER A DAY LIKE TODAY
SPLASH
I SHOULD PROBABLY GET OUT SOON

!!
ER...
GASP


GASP
Sigh!
THOSE REPORTERS NEVER GIVE UP! LET'S GET INSIDE!
Wah!
HOLD IT! NOT ON A WET FLOOR, YOU DUM---
!
BANG
BANG
BANG
IZUMI-CHAAAN, I KNOW YOU'RE THERE! DON'T TRY TO HIDE FROM ME!
ME? YOU'RE THE ONE BATHING IN A COED BATH!!
WHY'RE YOU--
Mmph!
Gahh!!
Hm!?
!?
SLIP
Uuuh
Hoah...
Hoah...
How many times have I fallen into a bath now?
I-I KNEW THIS'D HAPPEN!
WAH...!
KERSPLASH

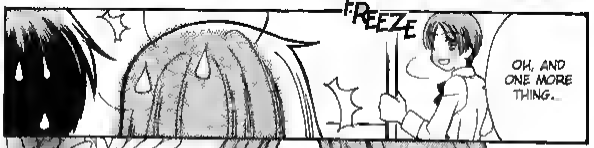
RELEASE
GASP
CH-CHIGATO-SAN!
I GOT RID OF THOSE REPORTERS! YOU SHOULD BE OKAY NOW.
GASP
FLOP
ACK!!
BAM
ARE YOU OKAY, IZUMI-SAN!?
SANG

TH-THUMP
WHAAAT...?
TH-THUMP
Hark
TH-THUMP
I FEEL SO LIGHT-HEADED.
IZUMI-SAN...!

TH-THAT'S RIGHT, CHISATO-SAN!
GASP
IF WORD EVER GOT OUT, I'D . . . I'D . . .
I-I KNOW IT'S NOT RIGHT TO DECEIVE THE FANS BY KEEPING IT A SECRET AND ALL, BUT IMAGINE WHAT'D HAPPEN IF PEOPLE FOUND OUT!
WIPE
Crocodile tears!!!
. . .IT'D BE JUST TOO MUCH
IF I EVER SAW IZUMI-SAN EMBARRASSED IN SUCH A HUMILIATING WAY
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT IZUMI-SAN DOESN'T LIKE BEING TWO-FACED AND SUPERFICIAL! IT'S HER JOB!
Sure, fine!? On one level, maybe
SOB
SOB
HIKARU-SAN
CHISATO-SAN . . . ?
That's not exactly following my lead
WITH IZUMI-SAN'S CLOTHES ALL WET, HIS SMOOTH CHEST IS CLEAR AS DAY!
WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH A STORY! QUICK!
OH! UH, NO THIS IS--
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
Someone's bro?
UH-OH!!
Y-YOU SEE, UH
I'M ACTUALLY VERY FLAT-CHESTED
THE GOSSIP MAGAZINES ARE HELL-BENT ON GETTING PROOF OF IT
WHAT SHE'S TRYING TO SAY IS THAT WE HAVE A SECRET THAT WE HOPE YOU'LL KEEP, CHISATO-SAN

TOTTER
I'M SO HAP—
YOU WERE IN TOO LONG... YOU OKAY?
SPLASH
SPLASH
CHISATO-SAN
I'M SO HAPPY FOR CHISATO-SAN
RATTLE
AND I'M GLAD SHE DIDN'T FIND OUT I'M A GUY!
SIGH
I'M GLAD SHE'S GOING TO CHOOSE HER OWN FUTURE.

That was the most barbed defence ever.
KNOCK KNOCK
THEW
I'M GOING TO GO SPRINKLE MORE SALT ON THOSE REPORTERS RIGHT NOW!*
RATTLE
*See Translator's Notes at back of book
LEAVE IT TO ME!!
I WON'T TELL A SOUL!


FREEZE
OH, AND ONE MORE THING..

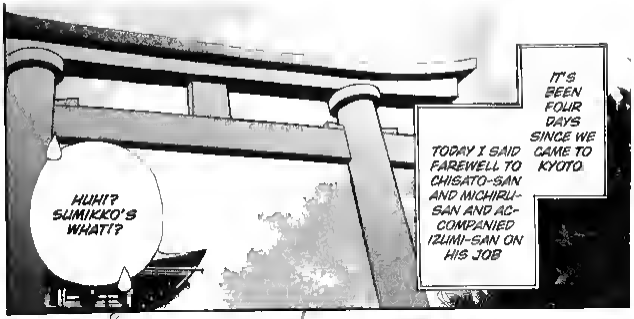
HIKARU-SAN, I DECIDED TO TRY TALKING TO AZUMI-SAN ABOUT OUR FUTURE
BECAUSE I THINK THAT LIKE YOU AND IZUMI-SAN ..
WE SHOULD BOTH CHOOSE THE PATH WE WANT TO TAKE.
I'D LIKE TO MEET SOMEONE ONE DAY WHO CARES ABOUT ME AS MUCH AS I CARE ABOUT HIM

KURORE, YOU IDIOT! YOU STAYED SO LONG IN THE OUTDOOR BATH, YOU FAINTED!
REALLY?
SHALL I PREPARE YOUR BED FOR YOU?
FLAP
LOOK, HE'S AWAKE
FLAP
OH, NOW I REMEMBER...!
SERIOUSLY YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY PEOPLE LIKE THIS!
BLINK
AND I'M GLAD SHE DIDN'T FIND OUT I'M A GUY!
WAS I HEARING THINGS?
UNG. WHERE AM I?

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN...
PSSH!
IZUMI-CHAN'S... A GUY!?
IT CAN'T BE...

Kaoru Habashi (20 years old)
Born: November 10
Blood Type: AB
Wannabe-Host Type
When I designed Kaoru, some of my assistants told me that he looks a lot like the stand-up comedian Hiroshi, which wasn't really a compliment at all. In reality, Kaoru's a very lazy guy. He's tied to his partner, Kurobe, who wants to do more than just comedy, and so he gets dragged around by Kurobe a lot.

UH, SURE WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU...
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE HIKARU-CHAN?
?
Well uh...
HOW DO I PUT THIS ?
HE SEEMS AWFULLY UNSETTLED ABOUT SOME-THING.
IS IZUMI-CHAN A GUY?
SHOCK


HUH!? SUMIKKO'S WHAT!?
TODAY I SAID FAREWELL TO CHISATO-SAN AND MICHIRU-SAN AND AC-COMPANIED IZUMI-SAN ON HIS JOB
IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS SINCE WE CAME TO KYOTO

CHAPTER
CHAPTER
YES SIR! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING HERE JUST GET IZUMI-SAMA HOME SAFELY
HE'S DONE NOTHING BUT SULK SINCE YOU LEFT
AH
OH, GOOD MORNING KUROBE-SAN
I SHOULD BUY SUMIKKO A SOUVENIR BEFORE WE LEAVE
I'M SO SORRY WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW AROUND NOON

Confused By TV

Er, maybe I shouldn't say that. I've been getting caught up in the QVC channel and watching documentaries, and it's got me thinking that I might be a shut-in. I even burst out crying whenever I watch anime. Then again, maybe that last one's not so abnormal... I said I was into QVC, but these days I've calmed down about it. And the only reason I'm a shut-in is because work forces me to be. Yeah, that's it! My room's become my workplace!

Ha ha ha ha...
HEH HEH YEAH, IT DOES SOUND SILLY...
Ha ha ha ha ha.
FLAP
FLAP
WH-WHAAA--? WH-WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT!? TALK ABOUT THROWING ME A CURVE-BALL!
Very vague gesture.

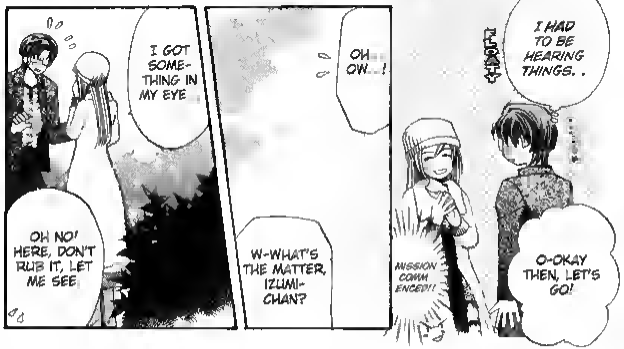
1000m
そのおおっ
NOW, KUROBE-KUN, YOU'RE GOING TO GO DOWN THESE STAIRS AND THEN...
ONE PUSH, AND WE'LL WIPE HIS MEMORY CLEAN
OKAY. I GOT IT...
So, I take a turn at that tree...
GRAB
Huh?
Henry
TEETER
!?
Wa-wa-wa-wa-
AH!
IZUMI-SAN, MURDER IS WRONG!!
WHOA!
KUROBE-SAN!!
Sh-hell!

ICE COLD DRINKS
WHAT!?
KUROBE HEARD US LAST NIGHT!?
WHAT DO WE DO, IZUMI-SAN?
HE ISN'T SURE WHAT TO BELIEVE YET. BUT HE'S DEFINITELY SUSPICIOUS.
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
WURP
Trash Can
BOTTLE
GLEAM
A-AND THAT IS...?
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO.

SMILE
A PLEASURE.
WHAT WAS THAT LOOK HE GAVE ME?
D-DITTO.
HABASHI, THIS IS HIKARU TAKABAYASHI-CHAN
OH, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU TWO'VE MET, RIGHT, HIKARU-CHAN?
THIS HERE IS MY PARTNER, KAORU HABASHI
COAX
COAX
HUH?
WHAT?
HIKARU-CHAN
KUROBE AND IZUMI-CHAN HAVE A MEETING TO ATTEND, SO WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A CUP OF TEA? MY TREAT.
LET'S GET GOING, IZUMI-CHAN.

?
SHOVE
WATCH OU---
GAS
GUH!
Arrah.
YOU REALLY SAVED ME THERE HABASHI
COUGH
COUGH
SMILE
U-UM— THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

—THEN I'M GONNA SMASH THAT SUSPICION TO SMITHEREENS!!
GRRR
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'LL MAKE FOR A NICE CHANGE
SO CUTE!
TH TH UMP


I GOT SOME-THING IN MY EYE
OH NO! HERE, DON'T RUB IT, LET ME SEE
OH OW...!
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER, IZUMI-CHAN?
I HAD TO BE HEARING THINGS..
O-OKAY THEN, LET'S GO!
MISSION COMM ENCED!!

IZUMI-CHAN! LET'S HAVE LUNCH TO-GETHER!
AH... BUT I WAS GOING TO HAVE IT WITH HIKARU-SAN

I THINK SHE'S HAVING IT WITH MY PARTNER INSTEAD
Sure?

NO GETTING OUTTA THIS ONE I GUESS IT'S FOR THE BEST
SMILE
SMILE
BADUM

IT'LL BE ME AND KUROBE ONE-ON-ONE!
IF YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS THAT I MIGHT BE A GUY..

OKAY! CUT!
IZUMI-CHAN, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR LUNCH BREAK NOW
CHATTER
CHATTER
ALL RIGHT

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU DON'T LIKE BEING WITH ME?
UH...
I SHOULD SEE HOW IZUMI-SAN'S DOING...
NO... IT'S NOT THAT, IT'S JUST...
WHAT IS WITH THIS GUY!?
WAIT... YOU'RE A LITTLE CLOSE...
KISS
KISS
THEN COME ON, LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
HABASHI-SAN IF YOU'RE TEASING ME IT'S NOT FUNNY
And you're a little too close for comfort!
YOU ONLY JUST MET ME, YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO HIT ON ME ARE YOU?
PUSH
PUSH

An angel... my very own angel...
THUNK
Bwa ha ha ha ha!
Fell in Love!
BLUSH

No interruptions from you.
IT'S NOT LIKE I ACTUALLY WANT TO SEDUCE YOU OR ANYTHING. I'M JUST HERE TO DISTRACT YOU.
DISTRACT ME?
THAT KUROBE'S ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT IZUMI-CHAN THIS AND IZUMI-CHAN THAT. IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A GUY CRAZY.
OH, WELL, ONCE HE TRIES SLEEPING WITH HER, THAT'LL DESTROY THE ILLUSION.
SNAP
SNAP
SHEESH. AND THAT GIRL'S FLIRTING UP A STORM WITH HIM.
THEN HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON COMEDY AGAIN.

WHAT!?
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO YOURSELF? KUROBE COULD DO TEN TIMES BETTER THAN IZUMI!
Idiot
IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT A NUISANCE FOR ME, TOO!
IF ANYONE'S FLIRTING, IT'S THAT LECHER KUROBE-SAN!!

SLAP
— IS NOT MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME!
HAVING SOMEONE I DON'T LIKE PUT THE MOVES ON ME —

THIS GUY...!!
FUU
Heh heh.
HA
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T TURN AWAY A CELEBRITY.

THUD
HIKARU!?
!
DON'T SHOOT YOUR MOUTH OFF ABOUT WHAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU
OW...

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE GRADE SCHOOL
I KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT KUROBE
BUT EVER SINCE THAT GIRL'S COME AROUND, HE'S BEEN RESTLESS HE CAN'T EVEN FOCUS ON OUR ACT
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS YOU'RE JEALOUS? IS THAT IT!?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU SAY YOU WANT HIM TO GET FOCUSED ON THE ACT AGAIN.
...BUT WHAT REALLY SCARES YOU IS KUROBE-SAN LEAVING YOU, ISN'T IT!?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT IT? YOU'RE DEPENDENT ON KUROBE-SAN!

KICK
HABASHI! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? I ASKED YOU TO KEEP HER AWAY, NOT MOLEST HER!
HIS MALE SIDE IS TAKING OVER!
IZUMI-SAN, NO!!
PLEASE, CONTROL YOUR ANGER JUST THIS ONCE!
HABASHI!! STOP THAT!
WHEN THESE TWO GET TO-GETHER.
...IT GETS HAZARDOUS!
In more ways than one!

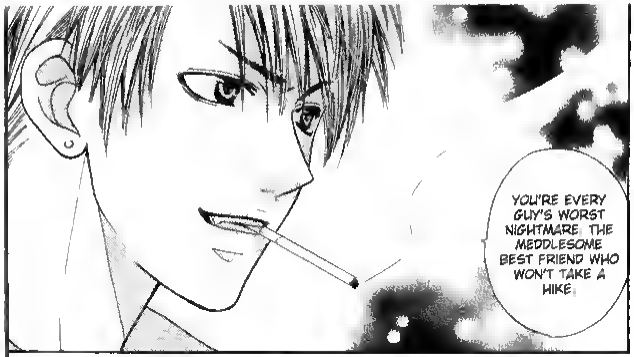
?
CHARRRGE
GASP
UH-OH!!
IZUMI-SAN!!
CHOKE
GRAB
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SCUMBAG!?

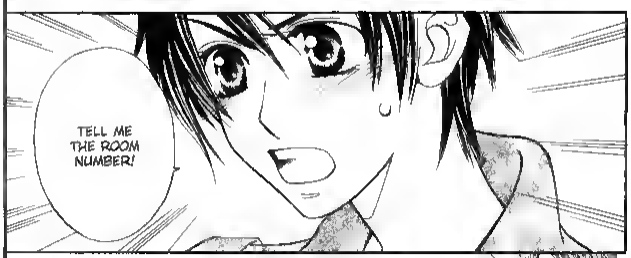
CHATTER
Hmmm...
Drink up!
CHATTER
IZUMI-SAN IS LATE...
CHATTER
Hiro here!
CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE ON A SAFE, SUCCESSFUL SHOOT!
CHATTER
CHATTER
AND SO, LIH...
IS THAT KUROBE-SAN AND HABASHI-SAN?
Wild accusation
THEIR FACES LOOK GUILTY TO ME!
sneak
sneak
WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
SOMETHING FEELS WRONG HERE!! EXTREMELY WRONG!!

These last few days of shooting have been exhausting!
THAT HABASHI IS THE BIGGEST DIRTBAG I'VE EVER MET!
He's even worse than Kurobe.
DAMMIT!
SHUT
AH, KIDO-SAMA.
TMP
TMP
AW, FORGET IT. IT'S TIME FOR THE WRAP PARTY
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM A HIKARU TAKABAYASHI-SAMA
FROM HIKARU?

DASH
Ah ha ha ha!
He's fast!
K-KUROBE-SAN!
OUR HONEYMOON WILL BE HELD IN NEW ZEALAND!
BAM
GASP
THIS IS BAD!
DASH
I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT IZUMI-SAN'S ROOM NUMBER IS!
HUFF
HUFF
NO WAY! I LOST HIM!
He's too fast!

I PAGED HER USING HIKARU'S NAME, SO WAIT A COUPLE OF MINUTES BEFORE YOU GO UP
R-RIGHT! WOW I'M SO AMPED UP!
JUST GET THIS THING WITH IZUMI KIDO OVER WITH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
I never realized you cared for me so much
BOOM
IT WAS A BAD DREAM CAUSED BY THINKING ABOUT YOU TOO MUCH CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
WEEP WEEP
KUROBE-SAN, WHY DID YOU DO THIS ...?
...IZUMI-CHAN AND I CAN MOVE ON TO OUR ROSE-COLORED TOMORROWS!
GRIP
I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO CLEAR UP MY DOUBTS ONCE AND FOR ALL
AND THEN...
WHAT'S HE UP TO!?
Here goes!


YOU'RE EVERY GUY'S WORST NIGHTMARE. THE MEDDLESOME BEST FRIEND WHO WON'T TAKE A HIKE.


TELL ME THE ROOM NUMBER!

WHO'S THE DEPEN-DENT ONE NOW?
THEN LET ME GO!
LIKE I'D EVER TELL YOU

MY ONLY OPTION IS TO KNOCK ON EVERY DOOR ONE BY ONE!!
SLAP

GASP
QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD, BITCH
DASH!
GRAB

Hmph.
I AM SCARED OF THAT VERY SCARED, IN FACT.
BUT I'M NOT EMBARRASSED BY IT
!?
IF WORD GOT OUT THAT HE'S A BOY...
...HE'D HAVE TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL.
BEING WITHOUT IZUMI-SAN...?
YOU'RE TERRIFIED.
...BY THE MERE THOUGHT OF BEING WITHOUT IZUMI KIDO

DROP
HUH!? WHAT THE--!?
GH
UGH
WAH!
WOOF
WOOF
WAH!
WITHOUT THE HOTEL KNOWING OF COURSE
DON'T WORRY HIKARU-SAN SUMIKKO SNIFFED OUT THE ROOM THAT IZUMI-SAMA'S STAYING IN. .
SUMIKKO AND I COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW, SO WE CAME HERE TO PICK YOU TWO UP
YASUKUNI-SAN!!

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO STEAL IZUMI-SAN AWAY FROM ME OF COURSE I WON'T PERMIT THAT!
IZUMI-SAN'S MY MOST PRECIOUS FRIEND WHY WOULD I WANT TO BE WITHOUT HER?
YOU .
NO ONE WANTS TO LOSE SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO THEM!

Silence
しーん
KABUM
ばっ
IZUMI-CHAN SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!!
AIEEH
HUH?
GASP
HHHSS
K-CLICK
GLG
Yesss...
AND SO RELUCTANTLY, KURO-CHAN ENTERS THE SCENE
IT'S HONEST SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
THIS ISN'T PLAYING A PEEPING TOM
IZUMI-CHAN'S IN THE SHOWER!?

SMILE
OF COURSE!
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
...WE NEED YOUR ACTING SKILLS ONCE AGAIN...

HEE
HEE
IZUMI-CHAN'S WAITING RIGHT BEYOND THIS DOOR!
♫ HMM

DRIP
DEFINITELY A CHICK!
Boobies...
N-NO, SIR!
A SCANDAL WOULDN'T BE VERY GOOD FOR EITHER OF YOU, NOW WOULD IT?
SMILE
GRIP
SHATTER
PHEW...
SLIP
THEN RETURN THE UNDERWEAR YOU STUFFED IN YOUR POCKET
EEP!

DRIBBLE
DRIBBLE
CHILL OUT IF I COLLAPSE FROM LOSING TOO MUCH BLOOD, I'LL MISS MY ONE CHANCE TO DO THIS
SPLURT
BRA AND PANTIES!!
GUSSHH!

WE LET HIM SEE YOU LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, SO THAT WE COULD GET KUROBE OFF MY BACK.
HUH?
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER
MURMUR
WELL I MINDED
Oh!
REALLY, IT WASN'T SO BAD. I DIDN'T MIND
I had a towel around me anyway
KICK
YOU SHOULD MIND MORE ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS TOO!
AAH!
Not again!
WHY?
SNAP

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
♪
TMP
TMP
FOR A LITTLE NOTE I HAD TO LEAVE
WHAT'S THE MAGIC MARKER FOR?
SORRY I'M LATE

Afterword and Special Thanks!

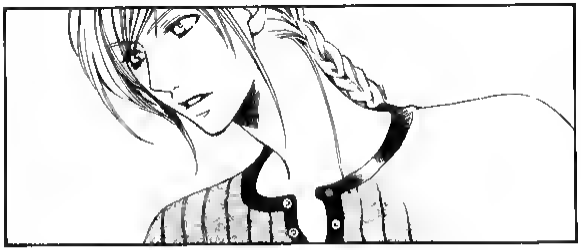
Thank you for reading all the way up to the afterword. And for buying the 5th volume of Tenshi Ja Nai!! And for all your lovely letters! And for visiting my website!

I am thrilled with the whole experience. My heart is quaking like the legs of a newborn baby deer... (tears of gratitude)

Also, to those who assisted in the production of this book: Hariguchi-san, Aihara-san, Hatayama-san, and my manager, Suguwara-san... Thank you all so very much!

Well, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we all meet up in the next volume soon.

March 6, 2005
Takaka Shigematsu



"Tenshi Ja Nai!! I'm No Angel!" Volume 5 - THE END

IZUMI-SAN REALLY DOES CARE...
WHAT'RE YOU SO MAD ABOUT?
Hmph.
..IN A ROUGH KIND OF WAY
NOW, ARE WE GONNA GET SOME FOOD OR WHAT?
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! MOVE IT!

End of Scene 25

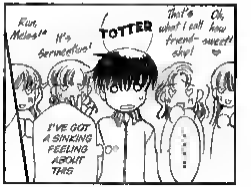
I'm eagerly awaiting your letters.

Homepage URL is:
http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/~taka_s/index.html

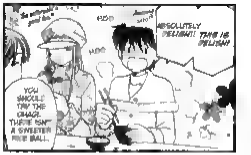
I broke into tears and pleaded, "There are too many pages, please help me!!" As a result, this was drawn by my chief assistant, Hari-san.

Translator's Notes

Pg. 31 – Serinentius and Melos
These are the names of two characters from the anime movie "Hashire Merosu" dating from the early 90's. Izumu and Hikaru's demonstration of friendship and trust is so moving, it reminds the girls of the friendship between the two male characters



Pg. 116 – *Hanetsuki*
Japanese badminton, traditionally played on New Year's



Pg. 134 – *Anko, Mitarashi, Ohagi*
Anko is a sweet red bean jam that the Kyoto region in particular is famous for. *Mitarashi* is a dumpling-style sweet that originally comes from Kyoto. Its distinctive shape is said to mimic the foam and bubbles of the purifying waters at a traditional shrine. *Ohagi* are rice balls covered with sweet beans or sesame

Pg. 147 – *Bubuzuke*
Rice with tea poured onto it, this obviously unappetizing "meal" is in fact a code of sorts in the Kansai region of Japan that a hostess will offer to guests as way to hint to them that they are not wanted.

Pg. 160 – Sprinkling salt
This is referring to the Japanese superstition that sprinkling salt will ward off and vanquish evil spirits

TENSHI JA NAI!

Just when things were going well between Hikaru and Ayase-sensei, complications threaten to tear them apart for good. To ease her pain, the ever loyal Izumi invites Hikaru to Kyoto for a movie-shoot. This supposedly relaxing vacation turns into more chaos as the obnoxious Kurobe gets a little too close to the truth for comfort! Has Izumi's secret been discovered!?

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